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## Current Support Brief

### THREAT OF SABOTAGE TO THE MINING AND METALS INDUSTRY OF KATANGA



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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THREAT OF SABOTAGE  
TO THE MINING AND METALS INDUSTRY OF KATANGA

The rapid deterioration of the Tshombe regime in Katanga Province of the Republic of the Congo poses the threat of extensive sabotage of that province's industrial facilities. Among these, the mines and plants of the giant Union Miniere du Haut Katanga (UMHK) are a prime target. On 1 January 1963, Tshombe stated that unless the United Nations accepted a cease-fire, he would put into effect his long threatened "scorched earth" policy, 1/ and some damage already has been inflicted. While this Office does not have the intelligence basis for evaluating the sabotage capabilities of Tshombe's forces, the prolonged loss of production by UMHK, which produces large quantities of copper, cobalt, germanium, and zinc, plus a host of other metals and minerals, would be a major blow to the economic and political stability of the Congo. In 1960, Katanga received US \$44 million from this company, a sum equal to about half of the budgetary income of the Republic of the Congo in that year. 2/ Although the loss of production would be serious to the Congo, the impact upon the rest of the world, with the possible exception of Belgium, probably would be negligible.

I. Nature of the Facilities

The facilities of the Union Miniere include the entire gamut of mines and plants that normally are associated with a large, diversified, and complex mining and metallurgical operation plus such auxiliary but necessary facilities as power-generating plants, transmission lines, rail facilities, coal mines, cement plants, living quarters, and hospitals. 3/ All of the facilities are mechanized, modern, and efficient by the most up-to-date western standards. 4/ Most of the copper, cobalt, germanium, and zinc ores are produced by five large mines at Kamoto, Munonoi-Kolwezi, Ruse, Kipushi, and Ruashi; small quantities are produced by a large number of lesser installations. (See Figure 1 for locations.) The principal metal processing installations are at Kolwezi, Lubumbashi, and Jadotville. All of these facilities are electrified to an unusual degree. The electric power is supplied primarily by four large hydroelectric powerplants, 5/

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of which the largest and newest is located at Le Marinel. <sup>6/</sup> The other hydroelectric powerplants are in Delcommune, Francqui, and Bia. <sup>7/</sup> In addition, there are small thermal powerplants at Jadotville and Elisabethville. (See Figure 2 for locations of plants and transmission lines.)

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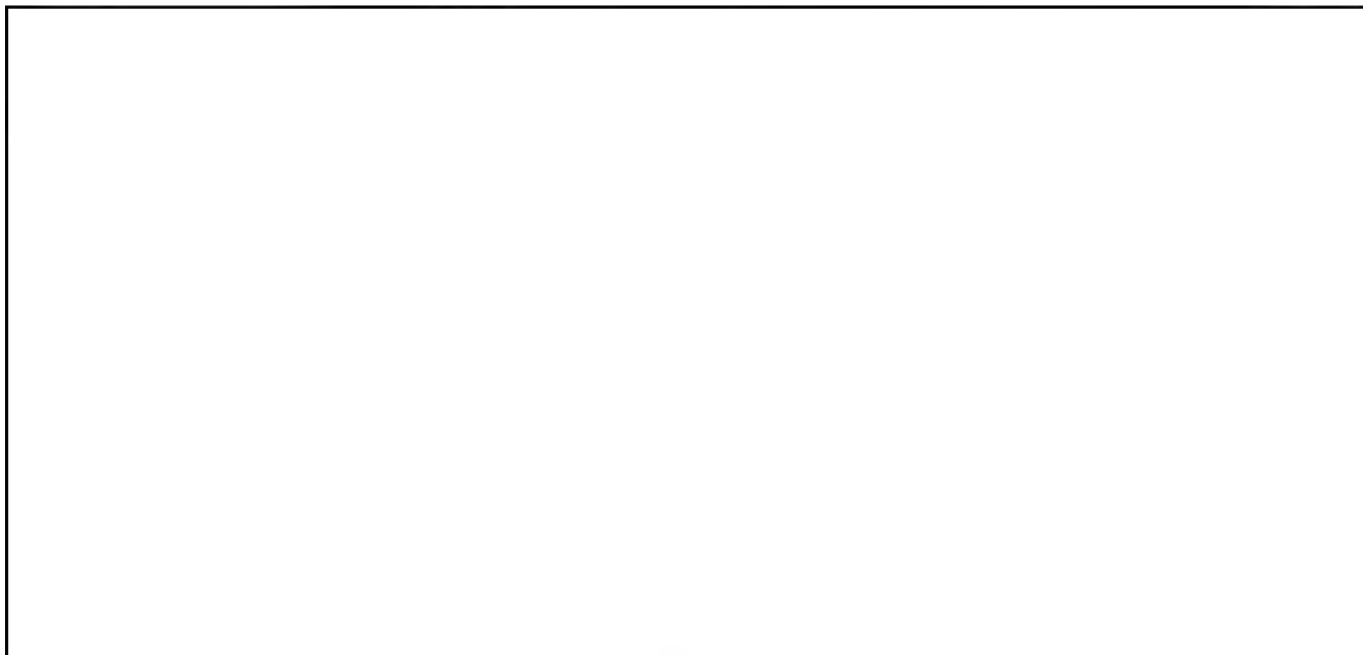
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### III. Impact of Loss of Production upon the Rest of the World

The output of products exported in 1961 by the UMHK totaled about US \$240 million and represented about 60 percent of the total exports of the Congo. 27/ As shown by the tabulation below, the UMHK produces some metals in quantities of significance in relation to world output.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>UMHK Output in 1961 (Short Tons)</u>	<u>UMHK Output in 1961 as a Percent of World Output</u>
Cadmium	10,400 <u>a/</u>	6 <u>a/</u>
Copper	325,400 <u>a/</u>	7 <u>a/</u>
Cobalt	9,259 <u>a/</u>	58 <u>a/</u>
Germanium	15 <u>b/</u>	30 <u>c/</u>
Zinc	62,799 <u>a/</u>	2 <u>a/</u>

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a. 28/

b. 29/

c. 30/

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Most of the mineral output of the UMHK is exported, largely to Belgium, other Western European countries, and to the United States. The bulk of the blister copper, cobalt-copper alloy, zinc concentrates, and germanium concentrates are shipped to Belgium for further refining. The principal direct export to the United States is electrolytic cobalt. 31/

Neither the United States nor the Western European countries other than Belgium would be affected significantly by a lack of supplies resulting from a cessation of production in Katanga, even if the plants were down for several months. Commercial stocks of these products in the United States and Belgium are adequate to cover any resulting decrease in supplies for 3 or 4 months. Furthermore, within a few months the copper production in other countries, notably the United States, Rhodesia, Chile, and Canada, would be increased. On the other hand, the Belgian copper refining and fabricating industries, which depend heavily on imports from Katanga, would suffer some hardship. Although the production of cobalt in other countries could not be increased sharply, the United States possesses large surplus stocks that could be drawn upon in the event of a prolonged shutdown. Also, US stockpiles could provide any necessary supplies of cadmium, zinc, and copper. Little information is available regarding germanium stocks, but in the event of a cessation of production in Katanga, the needed supplies probably could be obtained from Southwest Africa. 32/ Data on the US stockpiles of selected metals produced in UMHK facilities are as follows 33/:

<u>Metals</u>	<u>Short Tons</u>		
	<u>Present Maximum Objective</u>	<u>Present Inventory (As of 30 Sep- tember 1962)</u>	<u>Excess over Present Objective</u>
Copper	1,000,000	1,136,000	136,000
Cobalt	9,500	48,482	38,982
Cadmium	3,250	8,595	5,345
Zinc	178,000	1,581,000	1,403,000

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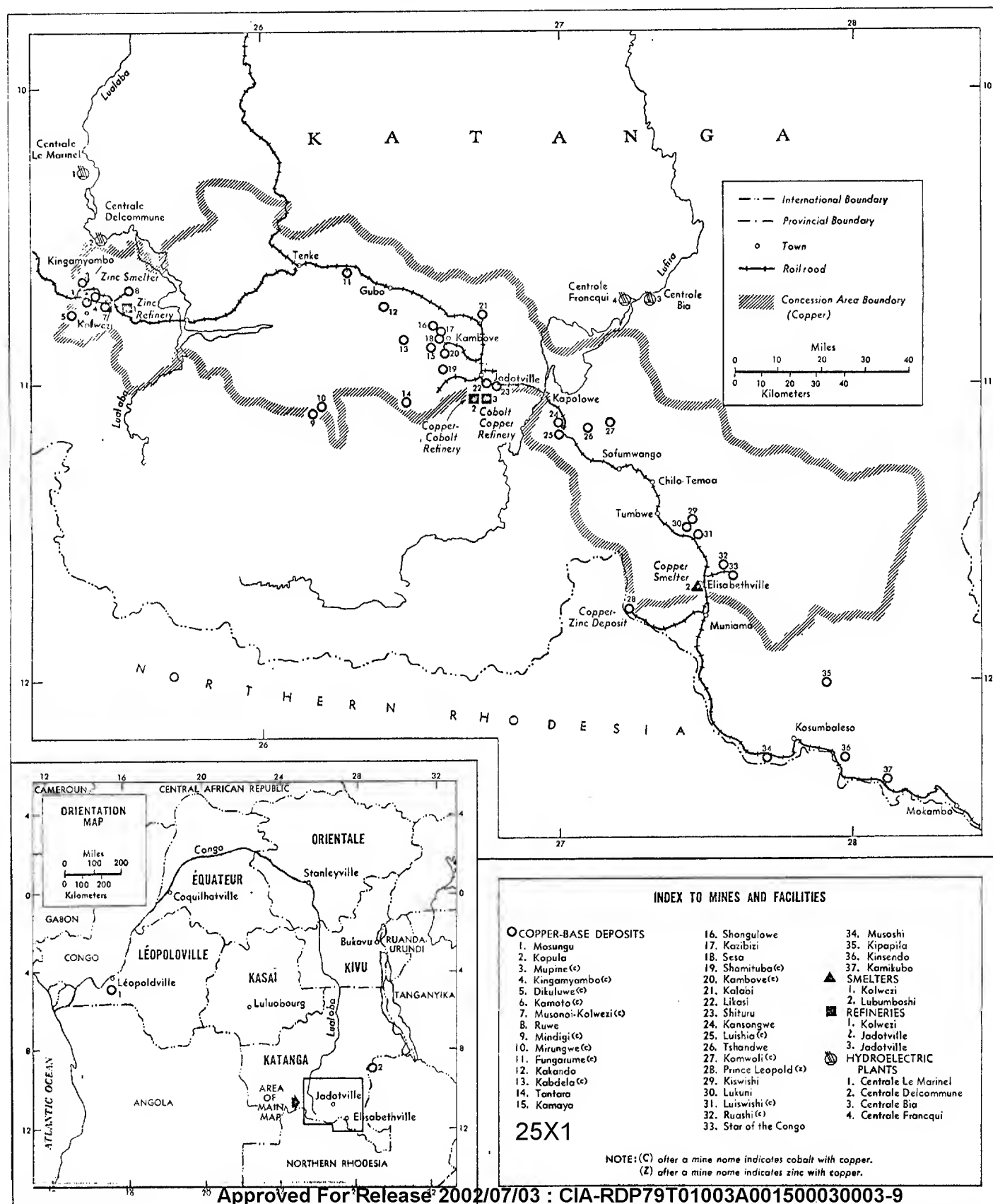
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Figure 1

## UMHK Facilities in Katanga

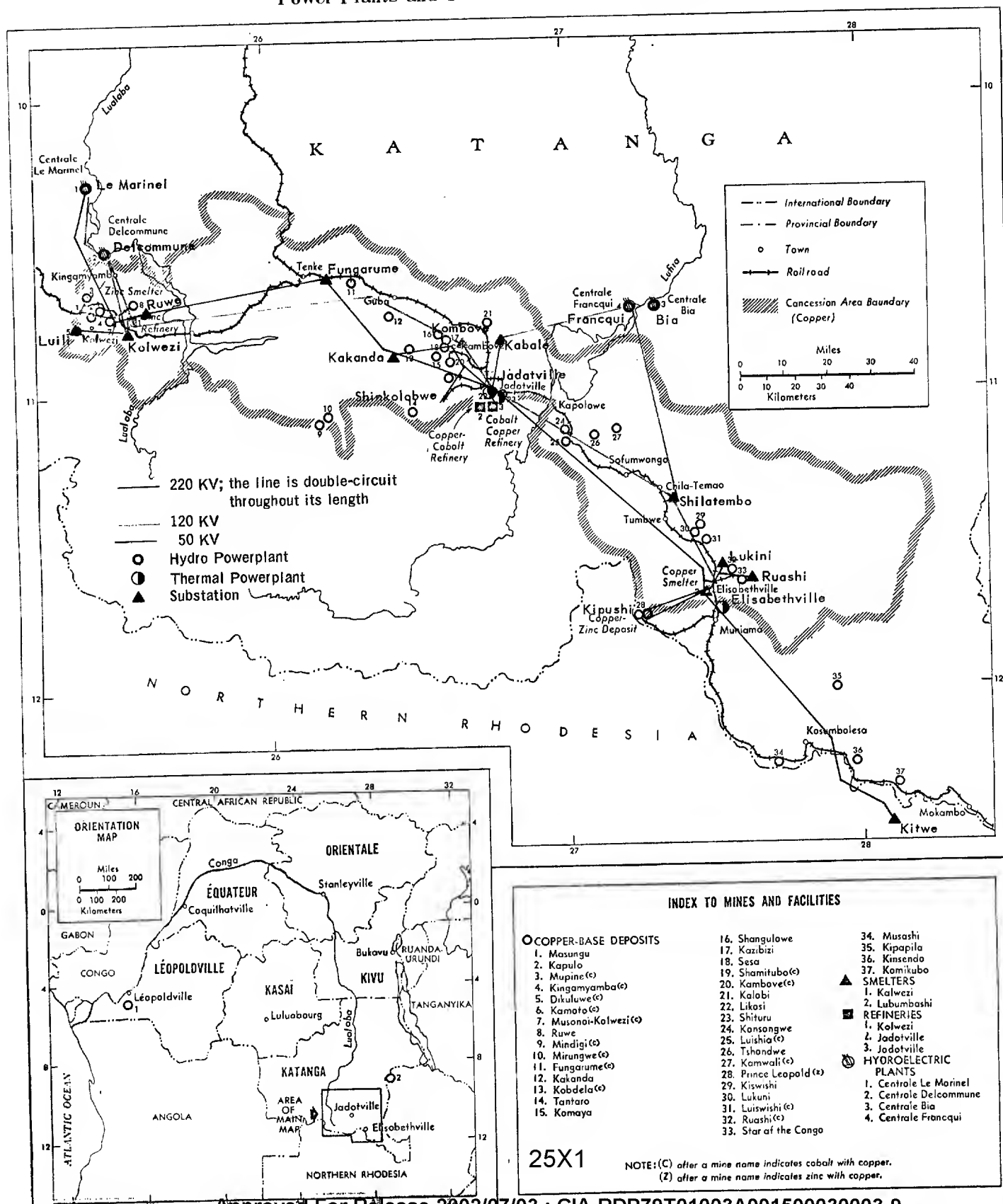


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Figure 2

## Power Plants and Transmission Lines in Katanga



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